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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

BHE

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Crop Production Highlights

Year-end estimates show that total all-crop production in 1951 was high, compared with most recent years and that the composite yield per acre was the second highest of record. We also learn from the December crop report that this year's crops were grown on a greatly reduced harvested acreage—the smallest in 10 years—due largely to heavy abandonment in wheat, cotton, corn and oats. A fourth highlight is that production estimates of such important crops as corn, wheat, and cotton are smaller than in the earlier reports this fall.

Corn Crop 2.9 Billion Bushels

The corn crop is now estimated at 2.9 billion bushels, down 5 percent from the 3 billion bushels estimated in November. Production in 1950 (revised) was 3 billion bushels; 10-year average, about 3 billion. (Revisions have been made of production estimates for individual crops, as the result of new bench-marks from the 1950 census...a usual procedure after each census, when new basic data is made available.)

Wheat, Under A Billion Bushels

Wheat production, at 987 million bushels, is 6 million less than the October estimate. It is 3 percent smaller than last year's all-wheat crop.

Cotton Estimate Off 3 Percent From Last Month

Cotton production is estimated at 15.3 million bales compared with 10 million in 1950 and 12 million bales average. Current estimates is nearly a half million bales, or 3 percent below the November forecast.

Big Crop of Tobacco

All tobacco, estimated at about 2.3 billion pounds, is 12 percent above the 1950 crop and well above the 10-year average. Acreage is up 11 percent and yield per acre is a record...about 1,281 pounds per acre. Fluecured crop, at 1,434 million pounds, tops last year by 14 percent; fire-cured, at 62.5 million pounds is up 6 percent from last year but well below average; burley, at 583 million pounds is greater by 17 percent than last year. The 42.9 million pounds of Maryland tobacco also tops last year's crop.

Oilseeds A Record

The record outturn of oilseeds in '51 will total 16.3 million tons, 7 percent larger than last year and a third above average. Soybeans make up more than half the total. Cottonseed tonnage is expected to total 50 percent larger than for '50. Peanut poundage is down about a fifth. Flaxseed, also, is a small crop, down a sixth from last year and 9 percent below average.

All-Crop Output Third Highest

The outturn of all crops in '51 is the third largest in history, exceeded only by the large total production in '48 and in '49. The output this year exceeds the 1923-32 average by 27 percent. Yield per acre (composite) tops the '23-32 average by 43 percent, is a little above year ago, and was exceeded only by the record per-acre yield of '48.

Other Estimates, '51 With Comparisons

Oats, 1,316 million bushels. Production last year, 1,410 million; average, 1,312 million.

Barley, 255 million bushels. Last year, 304 million; average, 307 million.

Rye, 21.4 million bushels. Last year, 21.3 million; average, 30.2 million.

Buckwheat, 3.3 million bushels. Last year, 4.4 million; average, 7 million.

Rice, 44 million 100 lb. bags. Last year, 39 million; average, 31 million.

Sorghum grain, 159.3 million bushels. Last year, 233.3 million; average, 118.8 million.

Cottonseed, 6.2 million tons. Last year 4.1 million; average 4.9 million.

Hay (all), 108.4 million tons. Last year, 102.3 million; average, 101.6 million.

Beans (dry edible, 100 lbs.), 17.4 million bags. Last year, 16.9 million; average, 18.0 million.

Peas (dry field, 100 lbs.), 3.8 million bags. Last year, 3.2 million; average, 5.9 million.

Soybeans, 281 million bushels. Last year, 299 million; average, 179 million.

Potatoes, 326 million bushels. Last year, 430 million; average, 410 million.

Sweetpotatoes, 28.3 million bushels. Last year, 49.8 million; average, 61.1 million.

Sugarcane (sugar and seed), 5.6 million tons. Last year, 6.9 million; average, 6.0 million.

Sugar beets, 10.6 million tons. Last year, 13.5 million; average, 9.9 million.

Maple sugar, 200 thousand pounds. Last year 257 thousand; average, 405 thousand.

Maple syrup, 1.8 million gallons. Last year 2.1 million; average 2.0 thousand.

1951 Fruit Crop Estimates

Apples, 112.9 million bushels. Production last year, 123.1 million; average, 109 million.

Peaches, 70.3 million bushels. Last year, 53.5 million; average, 71.2 million.

Pears, 32.7 million bushels. Last year, 31.1 million; average, 31.0 million.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Oct. 15 1951	Nov. 15 1951	
Wheat, bu.dol.	2.10	2.19	2.43
Corn, bu.dol.	1.64	1.62	1.77
Peanuts, lb.ct.	10.4	10.1	13.2
Cotton, lb.ct.	36.21	41.00	34.10
Potatoes, bu.dol.	1.39	1.74	1.83
Hogs, 100 lb.dol.	20.30	18.00	21.50
Beef cattle, 100 lb.dol.	29.00	28.10	19.90
Veal calves, 100 lb.dol.	32.70	31.60	22.30
Lambs, 100 lb.dol.	29.80	29.00	21.90
Butterfat, lb.ct.	1/ 67.7	1/ 67.5	77.2
Milk, whsle., 100 lb.dol.	1/ 4.58	1/2/ 4.62	4.83
Chickens, live, lb.ct.	24.2	23.2	31.5
Eggs, doz.ct.	1/ 47.1	1/ 48.3	53.2

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

2/ Preliminary.

Grapes, 3.3 million tons. Last year, 2.7 million; average, 2.8 million.
 Cherries (12 States), 236 thousand tons. Last year, 242 thousand; average, 186 thousand.
 Apricots (3 States), 181 thousand tons. Last year, 215 thousand; average, 220 thousand.
 Cranberries (5 States), 932 thousand barrels. Last year, 984 thousand; average, 728 thousand.
 Pecans, 143.1 million pounds. Last year, 125.6 million; average, 124.1 million.
 Oranges, 122.3 million boxes. Last year, 121.6 million; average, 103.0 million.
 Grapefruit, 40.7 million boxes. Last year, 46.6 million; average, 50.9 million.
 Lemons (California), 12.9 million boxes. Last year, 13.4 million; average, 13.0 million.

Many Fairly Large Crops, Few Records

Only a few crops this year were record high—rice, grapes, hops, and truck for processing. But there were a number of crops with relatively large production. Hay, soybeans, tobacco, cranberries and pecans were near record. Crops much larger than average include cotton, cottonseed, sorghum grain, alfalfa and sweet clover seed, cherries, plums and fresh market truck. Above average also but by a smaller margin, were oats, sugar beets, citrus fruits, apples, pears, and red clover seed. Crops near average include corn, wheat, flaxseed, peaches and sugarcane.

Food and Feed Grain Estimates

Output of food grains is estimated at 32.5 million tons compared with 33.2 million in 1950. This year's production added to the 12-million-ton carryover brings the total supply to about 45 million tons. Feed grains produced total 114 million tons, compared with 122 million last year. Tonnage of feed grains this year tops any year prior to 1942 but is somewhat less than in 8 of the 10 years since that date. Adding carry-over to production we have a feed grain supply of about 143 million tons. This is about 8 percent less than last year's 156 million tons but is about a fourth above the 1937-41 average.

More Cattle Fed—Calls for More Feed

Number of cattle fed in the U. S. this coming winter and spring is expected to be higher than a year earlier. Shipments of cattle into the Corn Belt, July through November, were 12 percent above last year and were second highest on record. Total was 2.3 million head compared with about 2 million last year. With livestock numbers increasing, still larger crops of feed grains will be needed to replenish reserve supplies which are expected to be lowered by this season's feeding needs.

More Sheep and Lambs On Feed

More sheep and lambs are expected to be fed the coming Winter and Spring than the number fed a year earlier. Increased feeding is expected in most of the Corn Belt States and in Colorado, Wyoming, Arizona and California.

Big Crop of Hay

This year's 108 million ton hay crop is very nearly as large as the record 1945 crop. Crop last year was 102 million tons.

Smaller Crop of Hay Seeds

Hay-seed crops (six major crops—alfalfa, red clover, alsike, sweet-clover, lespedeza and timothy) total 500 million pounds of thresher-run seed, down a fourth from the big crop in 1950, but is a little larger than average. Drop in production is nearly offset by the unusually large carry-over from last year's crop.

Smaller Potato Crop On Smaller Acreage

This year's potato crop of about 326 million bushels is about 24 percent less than the 430 million bushels produced last year. Harvested acreage was 20 percent below 1950, and yield per acre was down 5 percent.

Sweet potato production, 28.3 million bushels, is 43 percent below 1950.

1952 Wheat Forecast

Next year's Winter Wheat crop is forecast at 918 million bushels, based on seeded acres and conditions reported December 1. The '51 crop, of Winter wheat was 645 million bushels; '50 crop, 741 million. Winter wheat acreage is estimated at 56,257,000 compared with 55,802,000 seeded a year earlier...Acreage seeded to rye, fall of '51, is estimated at 3,164,000—a 12 percent decrease from a year earlier.

Milk Close to Last Year's Production

Milk production, first 11 months of '51, totaled 111.2 billion pounds compared with 112 billion in the same period a year earlier. 10-year average, 109.1 billion.

Egg Production Steady

Egg production first 11 months totaled 55.7 billion eggs, about same as last year but 14 percent above average. In November, the 4.2 billion laid topped year ago by 6 percent, and the '40-49 average by 44 percent.

Prices Received and Prices Paid

Farmer's prices averaged about 2 percent higher at mid-November than a month earlier. Cotton was much higher. Some other crops were up seasonally, but prices of meat animals and wool declined. So did prices of chickens, citrus fruit and corn. Prices paid by farmers (including interest, taxes and farm wage rates) rose slightly but not quite as much as prices received. Parity ratio went up from 105 to 106.

Business Continues Active

Consumer income, employment and industrial production continued at about the same levels of recent months. Spending for defense, and for expansion of business plants connected with defense, has been increasing as reductions take place in non-defense work.

Employment Continues High

Only 1.8 million U. S. civilians were without jobs in November. This compares with 2.2 million a year ago. Total civilian employment in November was 61.3 million, same as a year ago. The 8.9 million persons working on farms latter part of November was also the same as year ago.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	November 1951
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	301
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	284
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	106
Wholesale prices of food	'10-14=100	1/ 294
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	273
Farm wage rates	'10-14=100	2/ 476
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	3/ 568
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-Nov. 1950	Jan.-Nov. 1951
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	112.0	111.2
Eggs, (bil.).....	55.7	55.7
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	4/ 5838	4/ 5297
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	4/ 449	4/ 384
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	4/ 8186	4/ 9053
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	4/ 15033	4/ 15221

1/ Week ended nearest 15th of the month.

2/ October 1 adjusted for seasonal variation.

3/ October figure.

4/ Jan.-Oct. under Federal inspection.